

Lieutenant General Keck served in many places throughout the U.S. and abroad, including California, Arizona, Nebraska, Guam, Alabama, and Panama. I think it is also appropriate to recognize his family on this occasion as well, as they have supported him throughout many years and many moves.

Lieutenant General Keck leaves the military as the Commander of the Eighth Air Force. The Eighth Air Force, or "Mighty Eighth" as it is known, consists of nine wings and two groups—nearly 500 aircraft, more than 53,000 active duty and civilian personnel, and 80 major installations world wide. The Mighty Eighth is headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base in Northwest Louisiana. I am extremely proud to have my state host this exemplary unit. The relationship between the people of Northwest Louisiana and the community on base is excellent, and Lieutenant General Keck has only made that relationship better.

On September 11th, Air Force One landed at Barksdale while it was on its way back to Washington. Lieutenant General Keck and Briadier General Bedke played host to President Bush. Less than a month later, numerous units from the Mighty Eighth would be deployed across the globe, defending America from the menace of terrorism. As Lieutenant General Keck leaves the service, we are a nation at war, but our Air Force is no doubt stronger as a result of Lieutenant General Keck's leadership. In the years to come, the Eighth Air Force will undertake many more missions in Operation Enduring Freedom, and there is no doubt in my mind that they will be successful.

In closing, I would like to thank Lieutenant General Keck for his years of dedicated service to our country. I would also like to thank his family for the support they have provided over all of these years. I wish him well in the future and success in all of his endeavors.●

ON THE AGUA CALIENTE CULTURAL MUSEUM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce that, after several years of preparation, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is ready to construct a major cultural museum. The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum will be built at the Indian Canyons near Palm Springs, California.

The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum will pay tribute to the Agua Caliente Band's rich heritage and at the same time educate the community and visitors about the tribe's history of tribulation and triumph. This museum will truly be a bridge to the tribe's past and a platform for celebrating its future and potential.

A greatly expanded facility from the temporary museum built in 1995, this new 100,000 square-foot museum will house an auditorium, provide space for

traveling exhibits, and allow for the expansion of the current museum's education programs in language, singing and crafts. Visitors to the museum will learn about the tribe's history through exhibits of photographs, videotaped testimonies and other historical artifacts. The facility will also feature exhibits on current issues like land and water rights, as well as sovereignty issues.

When completed, the cultural museum will be a fitting tribute to the Agua Caliente Band, its proud traditions and history. The tribe, part of the Cahuilla Nation, survived the arrival of the Spanish in 1776, and through the centuries has become a strong and enduring people despite many challenges. The tribe is an important economic force in Southern California, has endowed an extremely generous and ambitious philanthropic program, and is a visionary steward of the land. This museum will ensure that the great heritage and spirit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians are never forgotten and are accessible to all.

I commend all those who have made the dream of an Agua Caliente Cultural Museum a reality.●

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR ALVIN M. STOKES, SR.

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Pastor Alvin Stokes, Sr. of Trinity A.M.E. Church and congratulate him on his forthcoming retirement.

Pastor Stokes has served as a positive and energetic force within the New Jersey communities he has served. In his efforts as a member of the clergy, he organized the United Black Clergy Association of Bridgeton and aided in obtaining plans to build the new Grant A.M.E. Church. Perhaps his most important work, however, has been through his ministry to his parishioners at Trinity A.M.E. Church, where he has been pastor since 1979.

While Pastor Stokes has a strong presence outside of his ministry, some of his greatest efforts have been on behalf of the schoolchildren of New Jersey. During his time in Chesilhurst, he served on the School board and organized efforts that led to the construction of the community's first elementary school. He has also served on the New Jersey Federation of District School Boards, a county Task Force for school dropouts and teen pregnancy, and the Fairfield Township's School Crisis Committee.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the efforts of Pastor Stokes to improve the lives of those around him. The people of New Jersey are truly grateful for his service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1370. An act to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to establish requirements for the award of concessions in the National Wildlife Refuge System, to provide for maintenance and repair of properties located in the system by concessionaires authorized to use such properties, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1925. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Waco Mammoth Site Area in Waco, Texas, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2051. An act to authorize the National Science Foundation to establish regional centers for the purpose of plant genome and gene expression research and development and international research partnerships for the advancement of plant biotechnology in the developing world.

H.R. 3694. An act to provide for highway infrastructure investment at the guaranteed funding level contained in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

H.R. 4044. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for implementation of a program to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4069. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for miscellaneous enhancements in Social Security benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4714. An act to prohibit members of the Armed Forces in Saudi Arabia from being required or formally informally compelled to wear the abaya garment, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H. Con. Res. 387. Concurrent resolution recognizing the American Society of Civil Engineers for reaching its 150th Anniversary and for the many vital contributions of civil engineers to the quality of life of our Nation's people including the research and development projects that have led to the physical infrastructure of modern America.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1370. An act to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to establish requirements for the award of concessions in the National Wildlife